
General Patient Care Protocols: Adult & Pediatric Clinical Priority and Transport Decision Chart



Note Well: After assessment of a patient, the ALS or BLS provider must assign a treatment priority. The following examples of priorities are not inclusive and sound judgement should be used when assessing patients.

I. Priority 1: Unstable Patients

1. Cardiac Arrest.
2. Post arrest with successful resuscitation.
3. Unconscious or GCS < 13 and does not respond to therapy.
4. Moderate to severe respiratory distress with a respiratory rate > 24, cyanosis, use of accessory muscles, or altered mental status.
5. Hypotensive (BP < 90 systolic) with signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion.
6. Hypertensive (BP > 230 systolic or > 130 diastolic) with altered mental status or neurological deficit.
7. Cardiac related chest pain unrelieved by therapy with hypotension or cardiac dysrhythmia.
8. Suspected acute myocardial infarction.
9. Obstructed or uncontrolled airway.
10. Continuous vaginal hemorrhage with signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion.
11. Abnormal deliveries.
12. Evidence of prolapsed cord.
13. Eclampsia.
14. Allergic reaction with acute respiratory distress and hypotension (BP < 90 systolic).
15. Status epilepticus.
16. Uncontrolled hemorrhage following trauma.
17. Multiple trauma patient.
18. Unstable chest injuries.
19. Penetrating wounds head, neck, chest, abdomen or pelvis.

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I. Priority 1: Unstable Patients (continued)

20. Burn patients:
 - A. Respiratory burns.
 - B. > 20% BSA any age.
 - C. > 10% BSA patients < 10 or > 50 years of age, electrical burns, chemical burns, 2nd or 3rd degree burns hands, face, feet or perineum.
21. Acute neurological deficit less than six (6) hours.
22. Any patient that is deemed unstable by the senior provider.

II. Priority 2: Potentially Unstable Patients

1. Cardiac related chest pain.
2. Respiratory distress (mild to moderate)
3. Hypertensive (BP > 230 systolic or > 130 diastolic) without signs and symptoms.
4. Continuous vaginal hemorrhage without signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion.
5. Patients involved in trauma with a GCS of 15, without signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion and associated with one of the below:
 - A. MVC > 40 mph.
 - B. Hit by vehicles > 20 mph.
 - C. Patients thrown from moving vehicles.
 - D. Rollover MVC.
 - E. Falls < 20 feet.
6. Burn patients.
 - A. < 10% BSA patients < 10 or > 50 years of age.
7. Any patient that is deemed potentially unstable by the senior provider.



Note Well: *Special consideration for transport to a trauma center should be given to trauma victims of extreme age ranges*

- *less than 5 years of age*
- *greater than 55 years of age*

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III. Priority 3: Stable Patients

1. Uncomplicated fractures.
2. Minor burns.
3. Lacerations requiring suturing, with bleeding controlled.
4. Seizure patients with a return of a GCS 15.




Note Well: *Special consideration for transport to a trauma center should be given to trauma victims of extreme age ranges*

- *less than 5 years of age*
- *greater than 55 years of age*

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District of Columbia Hospitals

	Hospital Number	Adult Medical	Adult Major Trauma	Adult Minor Trauma	Critical Burns	Obstetrics	Pediatric Medical	Pediatric Major Trauma	Pediatric Minor Trauma
Greater Southeast	01	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Children's	02				✓		✓	✓■	✓■
MedSTAR	04		✓		✓				
Howard University	05	✓	✓●	✓●		✓	✓		✓
Georgetown University	07	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
George Washington University	08	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Providence	10	✓		✓		✓			
Sibley	12	✓		✓		✓			
Washington Hospital Center	13	✓		✓		✓			
Walter Reed Army Med. Center	14	✓		✓					
Veterans	15	✓		✓					
Office of the Medical Examiner	30								


✓ = Hospital Capabilities

● = Adult Sexual Assault Center

■ = Pediatric Sexual Assault Center

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Maryland Area Hospitals

	Hospital Number	Adult Medical	Adult Major Trauma	Adult Minor Trauma	Critical Burns	Obstetrics	Pediatric Medical	Pediatric Major Trauma	Pediatric Minor Trauma
Prince Georges General	16	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Holy Cross	17	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Union Memorial	18								
Washington Adventist	19	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
	20								
Fort Washington	21	✓		✓					
Suburban Hospital	22	✓	✓	✓					
National Naval Medical Center	23	✓							
Southern Maryland	24	✓		✓					

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IV. Notes

1. George Washington University Hospital maintains a hyperbaric chamber for smoke inhalation and scuba diving accidents.
2. The National Naval Medical Center also maintains a hyperbaric chamber for smoke inhalation and scuba diving accidents.
3. Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore is the amputated limb reattachment center.
4. Suburban Hospital is equipped to handle eye trauma.
5. Howard University Hospital is the Adult Sexual Assault Center for those patients 18 years of age or older.
6. Children's National Medical Center is the Pediatric Sexual Assault Center for those patients up to 18 years of age.
7. Prior to transporting to a hospital outside of the District of Columbia, the on-duty EMS Supervisor must authorize the transport.